

## Message Text

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12

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 IO-14 SCI-06 PA-04 PRS-01 HEW-08

SWF-02 USIE-00 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 INRE-00

SSO-00 SR-02 ORM-03 DRC-01 /094 W

----- 099770

O 210422Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8073

DIA IMMEDIATE

JCS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE

USCINCSO IMMEDIATE

COMUSARSO IMMEDIATE

USAFSO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 3968

STATE ALSO PASS AID/PHA/FDRC AND TO HONDURAN CONSULATES IN  
NEW ORLEANS AND MIAMI.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN, HO

SUBJECT: HURRICANE FIFI - SITREP 4

REF: TEGUCIGALPA SITREP 3

1. DAST TEAM ARRIVED IN TEGUCIGALPA 1330 AND WERE IMMEDIATELY  
BRIEFED BY MILGP AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. MEMBER OF ECONOMIC  
PLANNING COUNCIL ACCOMPANIED TEAM ON INSPECTION OF DISASTER AREAS.  
TEAM FLEW TO LA MESA AIRPORT OUTSIDE SAN PEDRO SULA AND LEFT  
ONE OFFICER TO MAKE GROUND SURVEY WHILE OTHERS FLEW UP  
AGUAN VALLEY AND ALONG NORTH COAST. COL. SERRA, CHIEF OF  
AIR FORCE OPERATIONS, AND LT. COL. ANDINO, G-5 OF ARMED  
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FORCES, ACCOMPANIED THEM ON FLIGHT FROM LA MESA. COL. SERRA

HAD FLOWN OVER BAY ISLANDS AND REPORTED THAT ONE-HALF OF STRUCTURES HAD BEEN DAMAGED.

2. TEAM OBSERVED THAT BRIDGES ON ROAD BETWEEN SAN PEDRO SULA AND EL PROGRESO INTACT EVEN THOUGH WATER OVERFLOWING ROAD ITSELF. TEAM ESTIMATES THAT MOST DAMAGE CAUSED BY FLOODING RATHER THAN WIND DESTRUCTION. TEAM ALSO ESTIMATES THAT LA MESA AIRPORT CLEAR AND CAPABLE OF RECEIVING AIRCRAFT.

3. MEMBER ON GROUND IN SAN PEDRO SULA VISITED MILITARY HEAD-QUARTERS AND SPOKE TO MILITARY ZONE COMMANDER. TEAM MEMBER SAID THAT WATER HAD RECEDED IN CITY BY 12 FEET AND THAT THERE HAD BEEN LITTLE STRUCTURAL DAMAGE. MOST IMPORTANT PRIORITY FOR HONDURAN OFFICIALS IS SUPPLY OF POTABLE WATER FOR CITY. NEXT PRIORITY IS RESCUING 300-400 PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN STRANDED ON HIGH GROUND IN GENERAL AREA. OTHER PRIORITY CONCERNS ARE TO ESTABLISH ROAD CONTACT WITH PUERTO CORTES AND TO CARE FOR APPROXIMATELY 7,000 REFUGEES POURING INTO CITY FROM SURROUNDING AREA. SAN PEDRO SULA ALSO SUFFERING FROM ELECTRIC POWER FAILURES AND SCARCITY OF MEDICINE AND POWERED MILK. THE ROAD BETWEEN SAN PEDRO SULA AND LA MESA AIRPORT REMAINS CUT EVEN THOUGH IT APPEARS THE BRIDGES REMAIN INTACT. HOWEVER, PARTS OF ROADWAY HAVE BEEN WASHED AWAY. ESTIMATES OF 140 CASUALTIES IN TOWN OF CHOO LA LOCATED NORTH OF SAN PEDRO SULA.

4. OTHER TEAM MEMBERS FLEW UP AGUAN VALLEY AND ALONG NORTH COAST PRIOR TO RETURNING TO LA MESA. ACCORDING TO TEAM MEMBERS, SITUATION BECOMES MORE DIFFICULT IN VALLEY AS IT APPROACHES ITS MOUTH. THEY REPORTED THAT OLANCHITO HAD NOT BEEN SUBJECTED TO SEVERE FLOODING BUT THAT ISLETA WAS FLOODED BY THREE FEET OF WATER. ECONOMICS EXPERT WITH TEAM ESTIMATED THAT THERE IS 80-90 PERCENT CROP DESTRUCTION AND THAT IT WILL TAKE A YEAR TO RETURN TO PRODUCTION. WATER AT TOCOA WAS ESTIMATED AT FIVE FEET IN DEPTH. TEAM SAW GROUPS OF PEOPLE AND LIVESTOCK IN AREA TAKING REFUGE ON SURROUNDING HIGH GROUND. THEY REPORTED THAT RAILROAD IN AREA IS COMPLETELY WASHED OUT. TEAM ALSO REPORTED SEEING GROUPS OF UP TO TWENTY PEOPLE ON ROOFTOPS AS THEY PROCEEDED UP VALLEY. AT COROCITO THEY SAW APPROXIMATELY EIGHTY PEOPLE ON ROOF OF ONLY LARGE BUILDING IN TOWN.

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5. TEAM REPORTED THAT THERE WAS LITTLE VISIBLE DAMAGE IN TRUJILLO. THEY SAW SOME RELATIVELY MINOR STRUCTURAL DAMAGE IN LA CEIBA AND NOTICED LIGHTS IN POWER SUB-STATION. THEY REPORTED THAT GOLOSON AIRPORT AT LA CEIBA LOOKED IN GOOD CONDITION AND THAT THERE WERE AIRCRAFT ON THE RAMPS. TEAM LANDED AT LA MESA AND THEN RETURNED TO TEGUCIGALPA AT 1800.

6. EMBASSY SUBMITTING SEPARATELY LIST OF IMMEDIATELY

NEEDED RELIEF SUPPLIES BASED ON ABOVE OBSERVATIONS OF DAST  
TEAM, WITH FURTHER LIST TO FOLLOW AFTER SURVEY FLIGHTS  
SCHEDULED FOR TOMORROW. AMBASSADOR PLANS TO ACCOMPANY.  
SANCHEZ

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## Message Attributes

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